

July 28, 2010

Members of The Committee on Ways and Means
Re: Social Security at 75 Years

I am writing to urge Congress to take immediate action to pass the Social Security Fairness Act (H.R.1235/S. 484), which would repeal the Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provision.

I am one of the unfortunate public servants whose earned Social Security benefits were reduced by thirty percent upon retiring as a teacher after twenty-three years in the public schools and an additional nineteen years previously in the private sector. This reduction represents almost one half of my monthly rent and I am now supplementing my income by working as a substitute teacher.

Although both the House and Senate held hearings in the 110th Congress, the bill has not moved out of the committee and I fail to understand why. We retired teachers and those aspiring to be teachers cannot wait any longer for action.

I urge Congress to move the Social Security Fairness Act forward for a vote and when Congress moves on an overall social security reform, I urge that the repeal of the GPO and WEP be part of the reform.

Respectfully submitted,

Sylvia Stevens
California

Title of the Hearing: Social Security at 75 Years